



With a newly refinished exterior, the MIC literally shines as it shows off the BGCA slogan, 'Safe Today, Safer Tomorrow.'

## Hello Kentucky – Mobile Information Center (MIC) bids Maryland Good-Bye

'Have MIC, will travel,' could well be the new slogan of the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) Public Affairs Office (PAO) and the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) outreach personnel as they literally take their show on the road with their Mobile Information Center or MIC.

On Friday, July 6, the newly-renovated, shiny MIC—dressed in BGCA colors and sporting the seals of BGCA and its parent organizations—left the lower parking lot of the CMA HQ building for the last time as it started home to the BGCA in Kentucky, becoming the newest, and biggest, public outreach tool in the BGCA/BGCAPP information arsenal.

"Many people at the site and here at CMA headquarters contributed to the successful completion of the MIC makeover. It was truly a team effort," says Pamela Shelley, CMA PAO. "No one who saw it when it first got to Kentucky could ever have imagined it would turn out so well. It's now an amazing resource, and is a testament to the creative talent and hard work of every member of our team."

In early 2011, the MIC—a converted 35-foot long Airstream trailer—arrived at BGCA from the Pine Bluff Arsenal. With peeling logos on the exterior and an interior with stained carpeting and display panels, the MIC needed a complete makeover.

That's when the CMA HQ PAO, BGCA Public Affairs and BGCAPP outreach team went into action. After getting initial measurements, the MIC was transported to an Airstream repair facility in Ohio, where it was given a thorough inspection. All of the exterior decals and logos were cleaned off resulting in a gleaming outer shell. The trailer was checked out and brought into safety standards, and one of the two air-conditioning units was replaced. While all of this took place, the MIC team met weekly and was busy generating concept drawings of both the exterior and interior.

'All in a day's work,' was the theme chosen by BGCA leadership; so the design team concentrated on graphically showing the work performed daily by BGCA and BGCAPP personnel. After nearly a year of design work, modifications and intense review and approval cycles, the MIC traveled to Glen Burnie, Md., where the dozens of detailed designs became reality. It then was returned to CMA HQ to await final delivery to BGCA.

From the MIC's outer shell, which now features the BGCA colors and a variation of the seal, visitors climb two steps into the MIC and enter a virtual day in the life of the chemical activity employees. Graphically shown in display panels, models and hands on products, the MIC is part igloo, part BGCAPP site and part outdoors Kentucky. Visitors will see the workforce in action and read employees' thoughts about their jobs. Munition models lay on wood frames in a mock igloo, and the future BGCAPP facility is shown as well as the workforce. As visitors move first through BGCA to BGCAPP, they progress to Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Project, with information about the work being done to provide proper public protection.

Near the MIC's exit, there is a representation of an emergency alert siren. When a button is pressed, the actual warning tones and messages play which audibly stresses the importance of the work being safely performed at the BGCA/BGCAPP.

The MIC will initially be used at high schools and colleges, but its uses will expand in the future. This rather large tool in the BGCA outreach toolbox greatly expands the BGCA/BGCAPP teams' capabilities to get the message out—that BGCA/BGCAPP personnel are making a safer tomorrow, today.



Looking towards the front of the interior of the MIC, on the left one sees the workforce panel and in front is information about storage igloos.



**Left:** Acting CMA Director Don Barclay cases the colors of the Umatilla Chemical Depot in a ceremony on July 17, 2012



**Right:** Umatilla Chemical Depot and Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility worked together to store and eliminate about 12 percent of the Nation's chemical weapons. In a ceremony, "Operations Lights Out," UMCD was officially deactivated.

## UMCD Deactivation Ceremony Held July 17

*Soldiers and civilians have sweated and sacrificed to keep the chemical weapons safe and secure*

After 71 years, the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) closed another chapter in its storied history when hundreds gathered for a deactivation ceremony at the very place that once stored and eventually destroyed about 12 percent of the Nation's chemical weapons.

The ceremony was known as "Operations Lights Out" and was led by Mr. Don Barclay, acting director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency. Depot Commander Lt. Col. Kris Perkins relinquished command at the ceremony.

"This is an occasion of joy and celebration as we remember those who have gone before, overcoming countless obstacles and paving the way to our success. Generations of depot workers, Soldiers and civilians have sweated and sacrificed to keep the chemical weapons safe and secure—ensuring the safety of nearby towns and communities," said Barclay as he addressed the crowd.

Chemical weapons originally stored at the depot consisted of a wide range of munitions plus ton containers containing GB and VX nerve agent, and blister agent, or mustard. Stockpile disposal operations safely concluded in October 2011, using high-temperature incineration technology.

UMCD began in 1941 as a munitions and general supply storehouse and then began receiving and storing chemical ammunition in 1962. Eventually, UMCD began destroying the chemical weapons in 2004 to fulfill the United States' obligation to the international Chemical Weapons Convention.

Work remains to be done at the depot, including continued decontamination and dismantling of the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility incineration plant, which is where the chemical weapons were destroyed.

## BGCA and ANCA under New Leadership

### BLUE GRASS CHEMICAL ACTIVITY

Lt. Col. Christopher A. Grice was presented the unit flag on July 11 at a ceremony symbolizing his taking charge of the Blue Grass Chemical Activity from Lt. Col. Steven Basso.

Grice was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps as a Distinguished Military Graduate after graduating with a Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University. He also earned a Master of Science degree in Environmental Management from Webster University, St. Louis, Miss. His most recent assignment was the Joint Staff/J5 at the Pentagon as the Counter-Proliferation Branch Chief for the Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction Division.

Basso will begin a teaching assignment at the Army's General Command and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

### ANNISTON CHEMICAL ACTIVITY

Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) Civilian Deputy, Jesse E. Brown, III, was recognized as the ANCA Civilian Executive In Charge as Lt. Col. Willie J. Flucker, Jr., relinquished command at the July 12 ceremony.

Brown, who has worked as ANCA's deputy in charge for the past nine years, will now oversee the agency's final year and closure operations. "In many ways, closure has been more challenging than operating," Brown said, addressing the ANCA employees, depot leaders and Army officials in a speech at the end of the ceremony. Brown pledged to place safety, efficiency and professionalism foremost as he oversees the end of the organization.

Flucker was the ninth and final military commander to lead the Anniston Chemical Activity before the organization shuts down. He will report to the Pentagon as the Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

## Keeping Kids Safe this School Year

As summer comes to an end and the new school year approaches, it's important for parents to sit down and talk with their children about pedestrian safety.

Since many children have a route to walk, whether it's to the school or bus stop, parents should be proactive before the school year starts and walk the route with their children and point out any potential dangers or hazards. It's also a good idea to talk with other neighborhood parents to ensure a plan is in place to keep kids safe during the school year.

Safe Kids USA provides the following safety tips for drivers and kids:

Here are some simple reminders for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections and on medians and curbs
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving
- Don't assume that children walking or on bicycles see you

Reminder for kids:

- Always cross the street with an adult until you are at least 10 years old
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Never run out into the streets or cross streets in between parked cars
- Make sure you always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see you

Do your part to help keep kids safe as they walk to school. For more information, check out [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org).

## PCD Aids In Combating Fire



A Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) fire tender stands ready to protect the Peregrine residential neighborhood during the Waldo Canyon Fire. The PCD fire department, through its mutual aid agreements, helped fight the forest fire west of Colorado Springs. Other PCD personnel that also helped included the PCD Public Affairs Office and nine PCD firefighters, as well as workers who had emergency response duties. All depot displaced residents were able to return to their homes on July 3.

Photo credit: Photo by PCD Fire Department